1. **Data Chart: To Select Info Relevant to Research Questions**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Source** | **Research questions** |  |  |
|  |  | *How does social injustice affect the environment?* | *Why do I sympathise with the characters in each text?* | *How does the writer or director portray the situation in which the social injustice occurs?* |
| *12/5/05* | ***Tandia*** | *Affected by social injustice of racism and apartheid in South Africa. Division between blacks and whites and hatred and disrespect of blacks.*  *Rape of Tandia by corrupt police authorities. Tandia is not safe in her own country.* | *"What's another kaffir anyway?" Sergeant Geldenhuis the man who raped her says to Tandia when they meet again.*  *Sympathise with Tandia but also with the plight of black people in all South Africa.* | *Supportive of Tandia - victim of social injustice and is also a victim of abuse by authorities.* |
| *20/5/05* | ***Live From Death Row*** | *“Double imprisonment" as he has not only been imprison since 1995 he has also been on death row.*  *"Denied family phone calls and shackled" for refusing to violate his religious beliefs.* | *Evidence proving Mumia Abu-Jamal's innocence makes the reader sympathise with Mumia. wrongly accused for the murder of a policeman.*  *Description of the body cavity searches the prisoners undergo is shocking - treated as animals even though they are men.* | *Corruption in the US Justice system in certain states shown. Mumia makes a plea for change.* |
| *31/5/05* | ***Fresh*** | *Set in black and Hispanic ghetto - affects Fresh because trapped in the poverty cycle in the projects of the United States.* | *Sympathise with the underdog - fighting against the restrictions he has. A young black male growing up in a heavily gang influenced society.*  *Affecting Fresh and how it is taking away his chances of succeeding in life and not ending up in prison like his gang bosses do.* | *Criticises US government’s lack of help for those occupying the lowest positions in society.*  *"The government ain't here."* |
| *6/6/05* | ***Carla’s Song*** | *Her village is bombed and raided by Contra troops with sophisticated weapons. Sandinistas have obsolete guns.* | *Shows how scared the Sandinista supporters are by the Contra fighters with ruthless tactics and random raids on innocent villages.*  *.* | *Ken Loach supportive of Sandinistas.* |

1. **EXEMPLAR: LOG ENTRY #1**

**Title: Wife to Husband**

**Director/ Author: Fleur Adcock**

**Date of entry: 9/5/2003**

**1. Through whose eyes do we witness the relationship presented in each text?**

The narrator is a married woman. She is still awake after an argument with her husband – he seems less concerned: “into the pit of sleep/ You go with a sudden skid.” She is more troubled: “On me/ Stillness falls gradually . . . twitching nerves”. We see the gulf between the characters through the woman’s eyes and because of this we sympathise with her.

**2. How does the context (time, place, social conditions, other people) influence the relationship?**

After the argument, the husband’s head is turned away but her face is “hidden.” This might suggest that she hides (or has to hide) her true feelings but he doesn’t feel the need to mask his views. The husband seems to be the dominant character.

**3. What connections are there with other texts?**

Some connections between narrator and Beth in Once Were Warriors. Marriage sustained on a physical level but lovemaking appears to only paper over deeper cracks in marriage. Some connections on same idea to The Piano. Interesting that the portrayal of male insensitivity is consistent over these three texts despite time difference and setting and both male and female authors. (N.B. Must check Baxter out for counter to this.) Perhaps, here both characters share some of the blame: “Do we dare, now, to open our eyes?”

1. **EXEMPLAR: REPORT (ACHIEVE)**

**Report: Social Injustice**

***Introduction***

*My research looks at social injustice in texts with different settings. In my research, I studied four texts: Carla's Song directed by Ken Loach, Tandia by Bryce Courtney, Live from Death Row by Mumia Abu-Jamal and Fresh directed by Boaz Yakin. In all of the texts I studied, social injustice is experienced first hand by the main characters. In Tandia, Tandia is a victim of social injustice as she is abused by South African authorities because of race. In Live from Death Row, Mumia writes about being a victim of racial prejudice from USA legal authorities. Carla's Song shows the struggle of the Sandinista supporters in Nicaragua against the superior right wing Contras forces through the eyes of Carla who is a Sandinista supporter. In Fresh the main character fights against the poverty cycle he is trapped in a ghetto in the United States.*

***How does social injustice affect the environment?***

*All the environments the characters live in are affected by social injustice. Tandia's environment is shaped by apartheid. Tandia cannot have a fair fight against the system because of the colour of her skin. She is raped by the policeman Sergeant Geldenhuis. This shows how corrupt the system is, as the authorities do not protect, they abuse the citizens.*

*Mumia's environment is the prison where he has been held just because he is black, despite being proved innocent. because he is a victim of racism in the US justice system. He has not only been in prison since 1995, he has also been on death row. His prison in Keystone state is a cruel prison and treats its prisoners as vermin. Mumia is "denied family phone calls and shackled" for refusing to violate his religious beliefs.*

*The environment affects Carla heavily because Nicaragua was in civil war in the 1980s leaving it in ruins. Her village is bombed and raided by Contra troops with sophisticated weapons. The Sandinistas only have obsolete weapons and this shows how badly social injustice has shaped the environment as the Sandinistas have few resources and money.*

*Social injustice affects Fresh's environment because it is set in a ghetto which has grown into a crime filled, black and Hispanic community as a result of social injustice. The environment affects Fresh because he is trapped in the poverty cycle that is very hard to break out of. Fresh uses the black chess pieces against the white pieces to symbolise the environment he lives in. It shows how his people are black and poor and to overcome the ghetto he has to overcome battles with white people. I found that in all the texts that social injustice strongly affected the settings the texts were set in.*

***Why do I sympathise with the characters in each text?***

*I sympathise with the main characters because they are victims of social injustice. Tandia, Mumia and Fresh are racially discriminated against. I sympathise with them because of the injustices and hardships they go through, like the humiliating body cavity searches Mumia goes through. I sympathise with Mumia as I know that he is innocent. The true murderers confessed to the murder which Mumia was framed for, but still Mumia has not been released and he still undergoes body cavity searches. I sympathise with Fresh because he is an underdog fighting against the odds. He lives in a heavily gang influenced society and the government does not care for the community. This is portrayed by the overflowing rubbish bins and the amount of crime which is present. I sympathise because I see how social injustice is affecting Fresh. It is taking away his chances of succeeding in life and not ending up in prison like his gang bosses do. I sympathise with Tandia because because she is a victim of social injustice and is also a victim of abuse by authorities. "What's another kaffir anyway?" Sergeant Geldenhuis [who was the man who raped her] says to Tandia when they meet once again.*

***How does the writer or director portray the situation in which the social injustice occurs?***

*This is similar in each text. In Carla's Song, Ken Loach takes sides and only portrays the hardships experienced by the communists as his views are supportive of the Sandinistas. In Tandia, I think Byrce Courtney is supportive of Tandia and highlights the social injustice and apartheid she experiences at the hands of the South African authorities. This is the same as Fresh because Boaz Yakin takes the side of those living in the ghettos, showing that life is very hard with little help from outside forces such as the government: "the government ain't here." In Live from Death Row, we get Mumia Abu-Jamal’s side of the situation for the obvious reason that the book is an autobiography. He takes the side of the blacks in the United States and highlights the corruption of the US justice system.*

***Conclusion***

*I have found that social injustice has a very strong effect on the environment and the characters in he texts I studied. The sympathy I have for the main characters is created in similar ways in all of the texts. I support them because they are all underdogs who are the "good guys" which makes me try to understand their situations more clearly. Researching this topic has also makes me think about the environments where social injustice occurs.*

**Bibliography**

Abu-Jamal, Mumia. (1995) Live from Death Row, Perennial, New York

Courtney, Bryce. (1998) Tandia, Penguin, Victoria

Loach, Ken. (1996) Carla's Song, Shadow Distributors

Yakin, Boaz. (1994) Fresh, Buena Vista Home Entertainment